

# Lee's heroes stretch Boro

By Joe Melling

Middlesbro' 1 Wycombe W. O

JACK CHARLTON'S brazen pledge of murder for Wycombe Wanderers blew up in his face at Ayresome Park last night.

The star-studded First Division leaders of Middlesbrough found the unsung amateurs of Wycombe, just as defiant, just as committed as they had been on their much publicised home slope.

Brian Lee's heroes finally were beaten in the 89th minute by a simple David Armstrong goal after a performance which simply bristled with bravery.

A standing ovation at the end, plus handshakes from Jack Charlton provides scant consolation for such courage. On this performance Brian Lee will find it far easier to disguise the blushes than Charlton.

Lee said: "We are delighted. They certainly know they have been in a game. What Middlesbrough can do now to repay us is to go all the way to Wembley and win the Cup. There is sufficient character in their side to do just that."

Worried chief Charlton said: "Wycombe were great. Brian Lee has a good team there. I am glad it is all over. I thought it wasn't going to be our night but our lads stuck at it well."

## Rescue

In the sixth minute a corner from Frank Spraggon was headed down by David Mills but Paul Birdseye came smartly to the rescue with an unceremonious boot off the line.

Wycombe plucked up courage to throw off defensive shackles and Howard Kennedy's shot thoroughly tested 'keeper Jim Platt.

Boro retaliated with another attacking frenzy. Wycombe matched it in the 27th minute when Platt did well to pull down a Steve Perrin shot.

So it went. Boro, mainly because of a scintillating performance by Wycombe skipper and centre half Alan Phillips, found it increasingly more difficult.

With the game drifting towards extra time and both substitutes on—Alan Willey for Allan Foggon for Boro and Wycombe's Dylan Evans for Tony Horseman—Charlton's men made one last frenetic push.

Success came—but only after a series of agonising misses. A Mills shot hit John Maskell's legs, then Willey danced past three men before a superb Maskell save.

As the seconds ticked away Souness struck a pass of style and composure across the Wycombe penalty area and Armstrong slid the ball home.



## MINUTE MAN CALLS TIME

DAVID ARMSTRONG shoots down brave Wycombe one minute from the glory of taking Boro into extra time  
—Report Page 22.

# Boro hail Wycombe brave

By BOB CASS  
Boro 1, Wycombe 0

THE MIDDLESBROUGH supporters who came to conquer stayed to cheer gallant amateurs Wycombe.

The Isthmian League side came within a minute of taking the joint First Division leaders into extra time.

Then Lady Luck, who had smiled on them for 89 nail-biting minutes, suddenly turned and kicked them in the teeth.

Boro's England Under-23 midfield player David Armstrong pounced on to a through

ball from Graem Souness to guide the ball past Wycombe keeper John Maskell.

It gave the non-leaguers little opportunity to reply but their consolation for a glorious exit was a standing ovation from the crowd and a guard of honour from relieved Boro.

Boro boss Jack Charlton, grateful for the opportunity of taking Wycombe away from their sloping pitch on to the spacious billiard-table surface of Ayresome Park, had predicted annihilation.

Afterwards Charlton said: "I'm glad it's all over. Wycombe are a good side and they gave us more problems than I imagined."

Wanderers' proud coach Brian Lee said:

"I was delighted with fight and effort show my players. We can close to causing and shock. What Boro can to repay us is by all the way to Wembley. They have enough character to do it."